(c) Steps taken to realise these outstanding dues are as under:—

(i) CIL have already introduced from 1-10-91, the system of linking current coal supplies to advance payments.

(ii) Earlier also, all power units commissioned after 1-4-89 were being supplied coal only against advance payments or aaginst revolving letters of credit.

(iii) State Governments have been requested to persuade/enable State Electricity Boards to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest.

(iv) Government of India had decided to adjust all undisputed coal sales outstandings as on 31-5-90 against the Central Assistance to State Plans payable to all the State Governments, whose SEBs and Power Utilities had defaulted, in four equal instalments, spread over four years. Each annual instalment for Coal India Ltd. would amount to approximately Rs. 273 crores. The first instalment was released to CIL in 1990-91. The second instalment due in 1991-92, has also been fully released.

Discrimination in promotion of S.C.Sr. Medical Officers

1492. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that there is discrimination in the matter of promotion of Senior Medical Officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes employed in the Eastern Coalfields Limited and that they are not being given promotion;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of medical officers belonging to Scheduled Castes working in the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(d) the number of them who have been promoted during the last two years; and

(c) by when the remaining persons are likely to be promoted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Company, the allegation of discrimination is not correct.

(c) The number is 14.

(d) One Medical Officer was promoted.

(e) The remaining officers will be considered for promotion as soon as they become eligible, in accordance with the provision of the Common Coal Cadre.

Export of coal to SAARC countries

1493. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has taken any steps to promote export of coal to SAARC countries, and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any target for export of coal has been fixed during the year 1992-93, and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the plan to export coal will affect the supply of coal to the Thermal Power Plants in our country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Coal India Ltd have so far been exporting coal/coke to the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, who are members of SAARC, and traditional buyers of coal from India. It has also been planned to explore markets in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

(b) It has been planned to export coal to the neighbouring countries to the extent of 4 lakh tonnes during 1992-93.

(c) The quantum of coal envisaged to be exported will not affect the supply of coal to the Power sector in the country.

Weight shortage in steam coal

1494. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the working group of coal, Coke Consumer Association about financial loss to small scale industry due to weight shortage in steam coal wagons;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to fix the accountability of the guilty for weight shortage; and

(c) whether Government propose to ask the Coal India Limited to determine the actual weight of coal loaded in wagons so that the Railways can be made accountable for shortage on transit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A representation has been submitted by the Working Group of Coal/Coke Consumers' Assoication, a private body, regarding weight shortage in coal carried by Railway wagons. Sale of coal is on F.O.R. Colliery basis. Therefore coal companies are not in a position to check alleged en-route pilferage of coal resulting in lesser coal reaching the consumers. However, they are tightening the arrangements regarding weighment at the time of loading of coal. All out efforts are being made by coal companies to ensure maximum serviceability of weighbridges, and full utilisation/use of the available weighbridges so that as much weighment as possible is done of the rail borne coal. Consumers can also post their representatives to inspect loading and weighment of coal at the loading/weighment points.

Export of produced softwares

1495. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scope for exporting softwares produced indigenously by Techno Engineering designs computers;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to promote and encourage software producers; and

(c) what export performance of software industries has been during the past year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a series of measures to promote software exports:

(i) A policy was announced in December, 1986 for integrated development of software for domestic and export market;

(ii) Government have exempted the earnings from software export from income tax under the section 80 HHE and it is initially valid till financial year 1992-93;

(iii) With liberalisation of industrial policy, the condition of 40 per cent foreign equity for software development in domestic area has been relaxed upto 51 per cent. Now companies having foreign equity upto 51 per cent are being permitted for software development in domestic area;

(iv) To give further boost to software export, the Department of Electronics have launched a scheme called Software Technology